

“A Biblical Template for Overcoming Temptation,” Part 2 - 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 – August 16th, 2015

- Today's teaching will be part two of a new series we began last week titled, “A Biblical Template for Overcoming Temptation.”
- What we have here in our text are practical ways that we as Christians can overcome temptation, and be victorious in trials.
- The two verses before us are packed full of specific steps we can take when temptation comes knocking on the door of our life.

It's been said that, “opportunity may knock only once, but temptation will lean on the doorbell.

Martin Luther was once asked how he overcame the Devil, he replied, “Well, when he comes knocking upon the door of my heart, and asks “Who lives here?” the Lord Jesus goes to the door and says, “Martin Luther used to live here but he has moved out. Now I live here.” The Devil seeing the nail-prints in the hands, and the pierced sides, takes flight immediately.”

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 -- 12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! 13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

- In verse 12 Paul starts out by saying that if we think we are standing firm, we need to be even more careful so that we don't fall.
- In verse 13 He goes on to say that there is no temptation that has overtaken us except that which is common to all of mankind.
- He then says that God is faithful when not if, we're tempted such that He will also provide a way out so we can bear up under it.

1. Never let your guard down

- In the first part of verse 12 we found our first practical way to overcome temptation, and it's that of never letting our guard down.
- Often times we're prone to let our guard down when we think we're standing firm and strong in that particular area in our lives.
- I would suggest that we are the most vulnerable in falling to temptation in the areas of our greatest strengths and successes.

2. Don't believe Satan's lies

- In the first part of verse 13 we find our second practical way to overcome temptation, and it's that of not believing Satan's lies.
- One of the most successful lies of the devil as the father of lies is that since you're already tempted, you have already sinned.
- The fact of the matter is nothing could be further from the truth. It is not a sin to be tempted; it's only a sin when we fall into it.

James 1:13–15 (NIV) — 13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

- It's important to understand every one of us is tempted when we are lured away by our own evil desire and enticed by the devil.
- The reason I point this out is because we still haven't sinned even though we are tempted, it's only when desire is conceived.
- Then, after desire has been conceived, it will give birth to sin and when that sin is fully-grown it will ultimately give birth to death.

- I find it very interesting that James would use this analogy concerning temptation as it relates to conception, birth and death.
- Here's why, in order for there to be conception there has to be an environment that is conducive for both of the parties involved.
- In other words, the seed must be sown in the right area and time when it's fertile on the receiving end, or there's no conception.

- Here's where I'm going with this, Satan will deceive us into believing that sin has already been conceived so it's too late to fight.
- Actually, he doesn't stop there; the devil's condemnation that always ensues just drives us further down the road into that sin.
- As such once Satan's condemnation reaches it's final destination we hide thinking we're alone riddled with our shame and guilt.

Roy Hession - “In that condition of despair we have little motivation but to commit further sin. Our spiritual situation is so dead ... we feel a further act of sin is not going to make things much worse – so why not? When on Sunday morning a clean tablecloth is put on the table everybody in the family is very careful not to upset things on it.” but halfway through the week there are so many stains on it that nobody cares if he makes another stain – it is all part of the general pattern. The most we can hope for in this situation is to try to hide some of the more shameful stains. But the longer we hide sin, the longer it goes on condemning us and we get more and more under its dominion. Is it not obvious from all this that the real purpose of Satan in provoking us to commit sin is not merely that we might do something unethical, but that when we have done it, he might have the opportunity to accuse us (he is called the accuser of the brethren in Revelation 12). ...The Christian who has committed an impure act feels himself the next day an utter dog; he does not want to look God or his fellow-Christians in the eye; and as for undertaking some spiritual service – he would rather run away and hide. This is just the result the devil intended when he provoked that Christian to sin. He hopes that this will lead to further sin and that in turn will give him the opportunity to accuse him further and so on and so on. The sin is one thing, but the superstructure of guilt the devil builds on it is another, and is sometimes far greater than the original sin on which it is built.

Hebrews 2:18 (NIV) — 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NIV) — 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.